Norbert Wilson is a Professor of Food Policy at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Prior to moving to the Friedman School, he was a professor at Auburn University from 1999 to 2016. Norbert worked at the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France in 2001-2002 and 2004-2006. His research centers on food choice, international trade, and food waste. In service to the AAEA, Norbert has chaired the Committee on the Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE). He is currently the chair of the Mentoring Committee, where he has helped organize the Mentoring Workshop for this summer. Over the last year, he participated in the Priorities and Solutions Steering Committee. Additionally, Norbert chaired a NIFA multistate project on trade. He has published in *World Development*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Public Health*, *Food Policy*, *Agricultural Economics*, among others.

**What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for AAEA?**

Our membership represents a diverse group of economists with interests in different areas of research, teaching, and extension, from different countries and organizational types, and with different training and experiences. This diversity is our strength; however, we do not always recognize and benefit from it. Our diversity also poses challenges of meeting the needs of members of different backgrounds, work responsibilities, and professional aspirations. In short, how best should the AAEA identify and meet the needs of its diverse members? This question needs to be addressed to mitigate attrition and increase membership of individuals who may no longer see a space to engage AAEA. However, when we can answer this question, we will also begin to realize the strength of our diversity to address the societal, environmental, and economic problems that we face.

**What actions would you initiate to address the challenges and opportunities described in your response to the previous question?**

Participation in the Priorities and Solution Steering Committee, which convened colleagues across the AAEA, helped me realize the richness of our membership. I also saw how little we talk across the lines of our fields and primary foci. We need to institute more opportunities to bring together different people to help us address the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities of our diversity. While our national meeting brings us together, we find it easy to stay with colleagues with whom we identify and share similar interests and backgrounds. We could benefit from more intentional interactions across the membership and in settings that may bring in others to our collective work. These intentional interactions will generate chances for new collaborations to emerge, foster spaces for more members to share, and facilitate new discoveries across the multiple domains of our work.

**At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?**

I will initiate new opportunities for members to gather around topics. While we have joint-sponsored track sessions, I will foster sessions at the AAEA or ASSA meetings or standalone conferences built on a theme that cuts across multiple fields and incorporates research, teaching and/or extension.

I will help the AAEA continue to support future mentoring workshops and related mentoring activities. The benefit of these activities is to bring together new members with more senior members across fields to share how to navigate the profession. Additionally, these interactions may support further collaborations.

Lastly, I will encourage a larger presence of AAEA-supported activities at other national/international meetings such as the ASSA meetings. The presence of the AAEA at other meetings will allow better integration of members who identify more with another organization to find a place in the AAEA. Further this presence may encourage new membership in the AAEA from non-traditional members.